

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

177-5400-0182

historic St. John's Lutheran School

and/or common (now Johannes Arms Apartments)

2. Location

street & number 315 West 4th Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Topeka

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Shawnee

code 177

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: apartments

4. Owner of Property

name Johannes Arms

street & number 1518 S.W. 41st Street

city, town Topeka

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas 66609

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Shawnee County Courthouse

street & number 200 S.W. 7th

city, town Topeka

state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered
(interior)

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The St. John's Lutheran School is a rectangular two story brick building with a full basement. It exhibits stylistic characteristics of the Eclectic Free Classicism of the 1920s. The symmetrical five-bay front (north) facade has a slightly-projecting central block which contains the entrance. The front door, which is surrounded by a transom and sidelights, is unusual in that it breaks the stringcourse which separates the basement from the first floor, thus giving the facade a split-level appearance. The dark brick walls, laid in Flemish bond, rise to a plain classical frieze, above which is a simple brick parapet. The windows are double-hung, 9-over-9 on the main body and 6-over-6 in the half-exposed basement.

The east side of the building, which faces an alley, is also clad in dark brick. The second floor has three single 9-over-9 windows. The first floor has three pairs of doubled 9-over-9 windows. The basement has three 6-over-6 windows. Toward the front portion of the east side are two windows not level with the others. The 9-over-9 upper windows and the 6-over-6 lower windows indicate the position of the stair landings inside. The east wall has no frieze or parapet.

The west wall now faces a parking area. Like the front and east side, it is finished in dark brick, but it has no windows. In the center a chimney projects slightly. The frieze, continuing from the front facade, reaches only to the chimney and stops. The parapet continues across the entire wall and across the rear wall as well.

The rear wall is finished in common, irregularly light-colored brick. The fenestration is irregular.

The interior originally consisted of a lobby, two large classrooms, and a library on the first floor, and one large auditorium-classroom on the second floor. The basement contained a dining room, kitchen, restrooms, and mechanical equipment. A staircase, affording access to all three levels, stood in the northeast corner.

In 1983 the former school was converted into an apartment building. The lobby and staircase were retained in their original positions, but the other rooms were divided into apartments, two on the first floor, three on the second, and two in the basement.

The exterior retains its original appearance.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	built 1919-20	Builder/Architect	Frank C. Squires, architect Senne Construction Co., contractors
-----------------------	---------------	--------------------------	--

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The St. John's Lutheran School building is primarily significant as an exceptionally-intact example of the institutional architecture of Frank C. Squires, a prominent Topeka architect who practiced in the early decades of the twentieth century. Additionally, it is locally significant for its historical contributions to education in Topeka.

Construction of the St. John's Lutheran School building began with the acquisition of the land in 1919 and was completed in 1922. The school was operated by St. John's Lutheran Church, a local congregation. It used the building for this purpose from its opening until 1953, when the building was purchased by the Topeka Medical Society. In 1978 it was acquired by the Topeka Ballet Company, who used it until it was purchased by the present owners in 1983. It has recently been rehabilitated for use as an apartment building.

Frank C. Squires, the designer of the building, was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1877, but spent most of his early life in Topeka. About 1894 or 95, at the age of 17, he entered the office of John G. Holland, one of the state's most prominent architects. Squires left there after a short time to attend the Columbia University School of Architecture, but returned upon receiving his degree and entered into practice with Holland in 1898. Their partnership produced several county courthouses, among other buildings. In 1920 Squires went into practice on his own. Besides St. John's Lutheran School, his extant works include the Topeka Women's Club Building (1924-25), the Rooks County Courthouse (designed 1917, built 1921-24), and the Decatur County Courthouse (1926-27). Squires died in 1934.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property LESS THAN ONE ACRE

Quadrangle name TOPEKA, KS

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 110, 112, and 114 Harrison Street in the City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard J. Cawthon, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date November 21, 1984

street & number 120 West 10th telephone (913) 296-3251

city or town Topeka state Kansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society date November 21, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

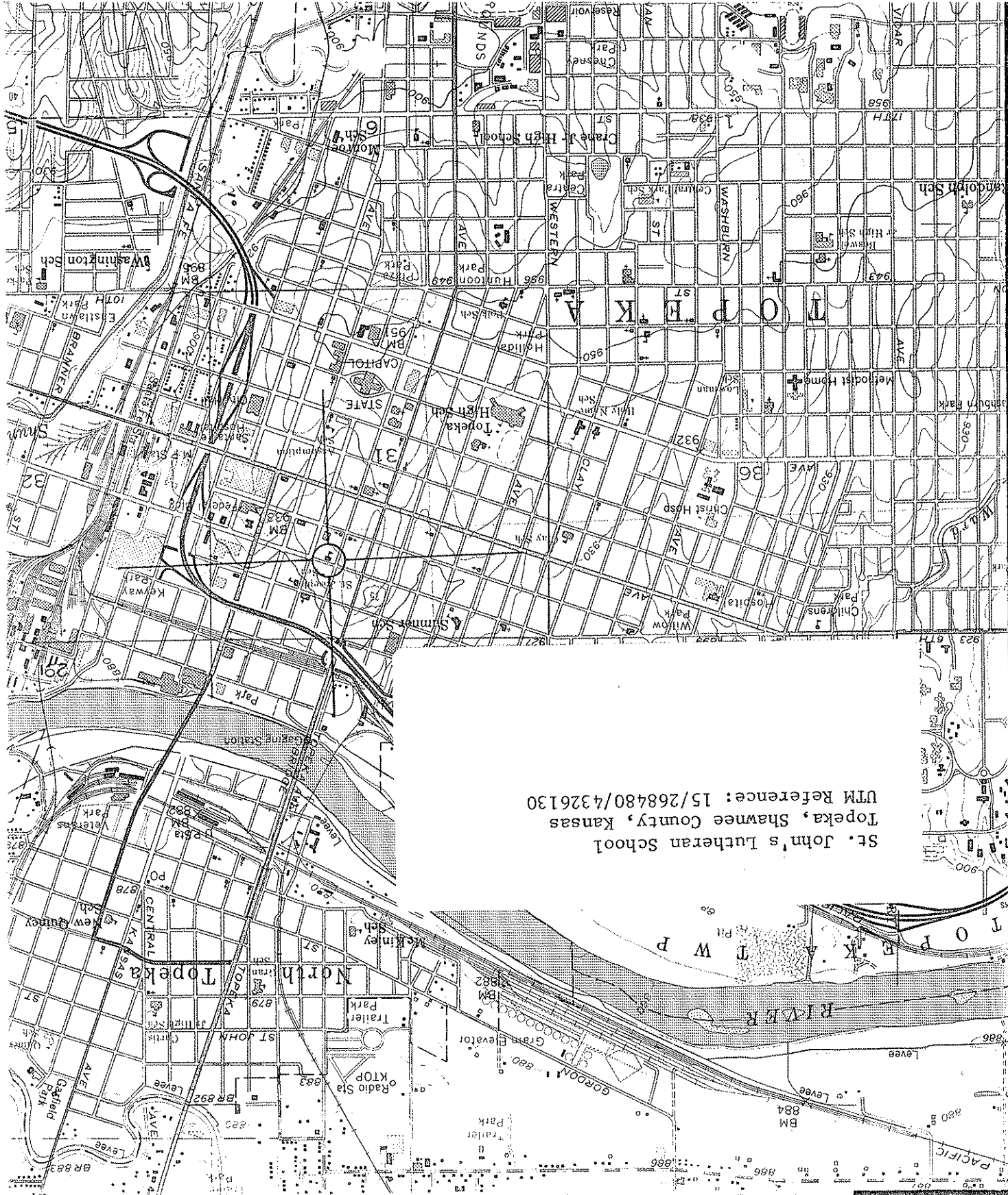
Barrett, Howard D. "Squires, Frank C." Who's Who in Topeka. Topeka: Adams Brothers, 1905.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie R. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), 1956. Reprint, Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970.

Topeka Daily Capital. June 4, 1922; October 29, 1922.

Topeka State Journal. June 17, 1922.

This nomination was prepared from a draft submitted by Kenneth L. Murrow, 2222 W. 29th Street, Topeka, KS 66611.



St. John's Lutheran School
Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas
UTM Reference: 15/268480/4326130